



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Council on Aging Minutes 04/19/2001

**Members Present:** Kathy McMahon, Harry McCabe, Mary Dodge, Hannah Simon, Mildred Hurd, Richard Murray, Shirley Chapski, Dottie Nicholas

**Members Absent:** Phil Mercandetti

**Others Present:** John Jope (COA Executive Director), Maureen Jackson (COA Secretary), Luise Flavin, Jean Hopkins

**Quorum Identification/Call to Order:** Kathy McMahon, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.  
 A quorum of 8 was present

The Council welcomed the new members: Shirley Chapski & Dottie Nicholas

**Public Forum:** Luise Flavin talked about having computers that have Internet access at the Senior Center for use by the seniors. Could possibly get some computers donated to the Senior Center. Jean Hopkins talked to the Council about Warrant Article 78 for a healthy Arlington that she was responsible for and asked that we call our town meeting members and ask for their support of this article. Maureen Jackson brought up the idea of having the small island area out in front of the Senior Center being called the "Harry Barber Memorial Garden". Harry McCabe made a motion to form a sub committee to collect ideas for Harry Barber's memorial and make recommendations to the Council. Mildred seconded the motion. A vote was taken with everyone in favor except Dottie who abstained. The sub committee will consist of Richard Murray, Hannah Simon and Maureen Jackson.

**Minutes of March 15 Council Meeting:** It was MSV to accept the minutes as written.

### **REPORTS**

**Executive Director's report:** John reported his recent grant application had been approved and we would be receiving a \$1,500.00 check from the Grants Committee, Memorial Church (Harvard University). This check is for a second printing of 1,000 copies of our Senior Services Directory. Their name will be on the front page acknowledging that they funded the 2nd addition of the Directory. John also reported that he presented workshops at MCOA Northeast Regional Spring Conference on April 4 and at the Central Mass Regional Conference on April 18. John also pointed out that we are on the Arlington website. The Council's resignations and appointments are posted for everyone to see. He reported that we have received \$1,379.00 in donations in memory of Harry Barber.

**Finance Committee:** Richard reported he had met briefly with John earlier tonight and that everything was fine except that payroll is taking more out of Elder Affairs and not enough money out of Municipal funding for salaries. John will gray bill the money back into Municipal before end of fiscal year. Harry McCabe made a motion to change the name of the Senior Citizens Community Service Program to the Harry Barber Community Service Program. Mary Dodge seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous. Richard reported the ending ledger balance of the Sevoyan Bequest was approximately the same as last month.

**Sevoyan Bequest Committee:** Richard reported no official meeting since last time. They did meet with John Bilafer and he asked that the language be reworded for the scholarship. Committee will meet with new members at 7 PM on May 17, before next Council meeting to go over and explain the Sevoyan Bequest.

**Transportation Group:** Kathy reported they have met once and will be meeting again tomorrow, April 20. John said one of the more important issues is the Dial-A-Ride Program contract, which expires December 31 and has to go out for bid again. The committee is reviewing specifications. Clients' needs are changing. Many wish Dial-A-Ride went out of town for their doctor

appointments. Since Symmes has closed, many seniors now have to go to Lahey in Burlington and Mt. Auburn in Cambridge. DART clients are being given questionnaires to fill out regarding taxi service. Bid specifications have to be over to Teresa in Purchasing by mid September.

**Needs Assessment Committee:** Mary reported the surveys have all been entered in the computer and totaled. She just received the final counts today and will be calling a Needs Assessment Committee meeting to review the statistics. There are 212 completed surveys out of approximately 3400. John suggested having all 4 agencies at the Senior Center get together and review the survey results.

**Assisted Living/Housing Options Task Force:** Harry reported he was at the meeting on March 28 and it was decided they would not disband. If Town Meeting votes to appropriate funds for Town of Arlington to purchase the Symmes property, the chairman of the Assisted Living/Housing Options Task Force would be made ex officio of the development committee that will be created. Hannah was asked to contact the Stern Management Group, which offers a different approach to assisted living. Not as fancy – less institutional. – less expensive.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Minuteman Board vacancy from Arlington COA:** Article in the Advocate stating the COA is looking to appoint someone to represent the Town of Arlington at Minuteman Senior Services. Mildred informed the Council that MSS Board meetings are held monthly during the day. A Board Member from each town is expected to give a report at the monthly meetings.

### **ANY NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion: Gift Fund:** (tabled till next month) Richard asked John if he would put in the parameters of the Gift Fund which we go by in the next Council package.

**Warrant Article #35:** Harry explained the Selectmen approved the formation of a Transportation Advisory Committee. This would preempt Article 35.

**Warrant Article #32:** John brought this article to the attention of the Council. It requires all boards, committees and commissions established by vote of Town Meeting to submit their minutes, whether in draft or approved form, to the Town's web site and to the Robbins Library within thirty days of each meeting.

**Minuteman Senior Services Community Leadership Award:** Harry McCabe made a motion to nominate Kathleen McMahon for the award. Richard seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor. The award will be presented at MSS Volunteer Celebration Luncheon at the Officer's Club Lincoln Ballroom at Hanscom Air Force Base on May 10.

**Formula Grant:** John reported that before the next Council meeting he has to submit to the state a request for the annual Formula Grant from the Office of Elder Affairs. Last year we received \$51,000 and this year we are going to be level funded. John asked for the Council's approval of the breakdown of the Formula Grant. Hannah made a motion to approve, Richard seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor.

**Jackie Keshian's Retirement:** Harry McCabe made a motion to approve expenditure of up to \$250 out of the Gift Fund to buy an Arlington mirror with an appropriate engraving for Jackie Keshian's retirement. Hannah seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

**The next meeting will be Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m.**

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

